

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

19.4

8 JUN 1967

OSD review(s) completed.

In reply refer to:
1-35611/67

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Aircraft Attrition Rates by Area

Attrition rates recently quoted for the heavily defended area around Hanoi and Haiphong have caused comment because the area involved wasn't stated. CIA [] says that attack sorties in that area had a loss rate of 3.7% in the first four months of this year; the DPM on Alternative Military Actions, dated 19 May, used a figure of one loss every 40 sorties (i.e., 2.5%). The JCS reaction, I understand, is that the loss rate is only 1%.

The JCS objection is well-taken if the "heavily defended area" is taken to mean all of Route Packages 5 and 6. The table, using Silverman's new data that cover 1 Oct 1966 through 31 May 1967, shows a rate of 10.8 per thousand (1.08%) for RP's 5 and 6 combined. There has been some random variation but no trend, so that the figure for 1967 along would be about the same. The table shows other rates for comparison.

Loss Rates in NVN

1 Oct 1966 - May 1967

<u>Area or</u> <u>Route Pkg.</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Loss Rate per 1000</u>
1	31,429	34	1.1
2	6,263	4	0.6
3	8,961	23	2.6
4	7,242	18	2.5
5	3,204	9	2.7
6	6,234	64	15.1
South of 20°	50,000	70	1.4
North of 20°	13,000	112	8.5
RP's 5-6	9,518	103	10.8

I have contacted CIA and learned that the area they referred to in their study, and in earlier studies that gave the number used in the DPM, is in the circles around Hanoi and Haiphong. These two circles contain heavy gun concentrations, and are expensive to attack; I am sure the CIA figures are o.k., although I have not repeated their arithmetic.

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Assistant Secretary of Defense
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67-25

MR. HAND

Copy Office of the Secretary
MEMORANDUM FOR: 7 June 1967

[REDACTED]

Appended is Dr. Bailey's
"clarification of figures" memo,
for note by [REDACTED] et al.

/s/
Frank Hand

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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